Broadcast of news and current affairs by FM radio

*356. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been disallowing news and current affairs content on private FM radio till now, despite persistent demand from the industry;

(b) whether a midway solution could be found, if a proposal from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is accepted;

(c) whether in a significant suggestion in a consultation paper on the proposed next phase of expansion of private FM radio broadcasting TRAI has said that broadcasters could be considered for certain freedom and allowed to broadcast exactly same news & current affairs contents already aired by AIR and Doordarshan; and

(d) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per the Policy on expansion of FM Radio Brodcasting Services through Private Agencies (Phase-II), the private FM broadcasters are not permitted to carry news and current affairs.

(b) and (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted their recommendations on issues relating to Phase III of expansion of FM Radio Brodcasting to the Government on 22.02.2008. The Authority while giving recommendations on various issues also recommended that FM Radio Broadcasters may be permitted to broadcast news taking content from All India Radio, Doordarshan, authorized T.V. News channels, United News of India, Press Trust of India and any other authorized news agency without any substantive change in the content.

(d) The recommendations of TRAI are being examined by the Government.

Women in Delhi threatened on phone

*357. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing number of cases where women in Delhi have been threatened on phone by known/unknown people;

(b) whether Government is also aware that Delhi Police is not taking such cases seriously and that they have even refused to register FIRs on the complaints of some victims;

(c) whether any vigilance enquiry has been conducted on the complaints of such victims in North-East District of Delhi Police against the erring investigation officers; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow up action taken by the Department in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Delhi Police, it initiates necessary legal action immediately as and when any such complaint is received. The details of the number of cases registered where women in

Delhi have been threatened on phone by known and unknown people during the year 2005, 2006, 2007 and upto 29th February, 2008 are given below:

Year	Cases registered
2005	4
2006	7
2007	15
2008 (upto 29th February)	3

(c) and (d) As per Delhi Police, on vigilance enquiry has been conducted since no such complaint has been received by it from any victim against any investigation officer.

Hindi speaking people killed in Manipur

†358. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindi speaking persons have been killed by terrorists in Manipur recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for resorting to killings by terrorists;

(c) the stringent steps being taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) whether any action plan has been made to provide security to Hindi speaking persons residing in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) According to information provided by the State Government of Manipur, 16 non-locals were killed in separate attacks in East Imphal, West Imphal and Thoubal districts on 17-18 March, 2008. The killings are suspected to have been perpetrated by armed cadres of a banned Meitei underground outfit, evidently to terrorise the non-locals residing in the remote areas in the valley.

(c) and (d) The State Government took immediate action by way of launching combing operations in the concerned areas; imposition of curfew between 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. in all the four valley districts; and arrangements for security of non-Manipuri traders/labourers in isolated place, including temporary arrangements for locating them in secure areas.

A close watch is being maintained on the situation and intensive counter-insurgency operations are being conducted. The Combined Headquarters, which has been set up to coordinate Counter Insurgency Operations, is also meeting at regular intervals to review the situation and deployment of security forces. During such reviews vulnerable pockets are also identified and necessary security measures are put in place. Vigilance in this regard is also being regularly maintained in other areas of the region and steps, as necessary, are being taken from time to time.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.